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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-15 and 17-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants AMEND claims 12-14, 17, 19 and 20 and CANCEL claim 16.

Applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 20 to be in independent form including all of the features recited in base claim 16.

Claims 12, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai (U.S. 6,259,185) in view of Colgan et al. (U.S. 5,281,485). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai in view of Colgan et al., and further in view of Kimura et al. (U.S. 5,929,723).

As noted above, Applicants have amended claim 20 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 16. In addition, Applicants have canceled claim 16 and amended claims 12-14, 17 and 19 to be dependent upon allowable claim 20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12-15 and 17-20 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

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